

ther month before taking up an independent existence in mid-summer.

The Koonae (*C. preissii*) is found in association with the Marron but also occurs as a semi-land-inhabiting form, blue in colour, which lives in swamps, burrowing to the water table. It occurs from Perth southwards to Albany and inland to the Great Southern districts eastwards to Ongerup, but it is unknown how far introductions have contributed to this range.

The Jilgie (*C. quinquecarinatus*) is recorded from Yallingup and all the coastal streams and fresh water lakes north to the Moore River.

All species are host to a commensal Temnocephalid, which deposits its ova on the swimmerets during that portion of the year when the crayfish are not carrying their own eggs and larvae.

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NATURAL HISTORY NOTES FROM THE SOUTH COAST

By V. N. SERVENTY, Subiaco.

The following observations refer to three localities, all being beaches east of Esperance. These are Israelite Bay, Point Malcolm and Duke of Orleans Bay.

They were visited during the Australian Geographical Society's expedition to the Recherche Archipelago, and though only a short stay was made at each place, it has been thought worthwhile to place the information on record in view of the fact that the localities are so seldom visited. Our party included Messrs. J. Bechervaise (leader), J. Willis (botanist) and D. McKenzie (skipper of the schooner *Water Lily*). The time of the visits was from November 27 to 29, 1950.

ISRAELITE BAY.

BIRDS.

Blaek Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).—12 of these were seen, and another group of 3, as we approached the Bay.

Blaek-faced Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscescens*).—One bird flew around the boat as we approached, and 5 were found on the old jetty.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*).—On a bare granite headland to the north-east of the Bay a nest with two eggs was found. Although connected to the mainland, this could be considered an island situation as the neck of land joining the rock to the land was only a few feet wide at some points.

Fairy Tern (*Sterna nereis*).—One bird was seen.

Silver Gull (*Larus novae-hollandiae*).—A few birds were present.

Pacific Gull (*Gabianus pacificus*).—One individual.

Pied Oyster-catcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*).—Two groups were met with. One pair had one large young, while the other pair had two. All the young could fly. They were browner on the wings than the adults and the beaks were paler.

Sooty Oyster-catcher (*Haematopus fuliginosus*).—Two birds were seen.

Grey Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*).—8 birds were observed.

Red-eapped Dotterel (*Charadrius alexandrinus*).—4 birds.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*).—One bird.

Little Stint (*Erolia ruficollis*).—2-300 birds were present.

Kestrel (*Falco conchroides*).—One bird.

Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucus*).—One bird seen.

Golden Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcites lucidus*).—One bird was heard calling.

Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*).—Several birds about.

Crested Bell-bird (*Oreoica gutturalis*).—One bird was heard by Mr. J. Willis.

Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*).—One bird seen.

Brown Thornbill (*Acanthiza pusilla*).—One bird.

Spotted Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis maculatus*).—Several birds noted.

Silvereye (*Zosterops australasiae*).—Several birds seen.

Brown Honeyeater (*Gliciphila indistincta*).—One bird seen.

New Holland Honeyeater (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae*).—One bird seen.

Singing Honeyeater (*Meliphaga virescens*).—Several birds.

Red Wattle-bird (*Anthochaera carunculata*).—Several birds were seen.

Australian Pipit (*Anthus novae-seelandiae*).—One bird was seen on a sandy point near the beach.

Raven (*Corvus coronoides*).—12 birds were seen.

Grey Butcher-bird (*Cracticus torquatus*).—One bird was seen

REPTILES

Sealy-foot (*Pygopus lepidopodus*).—This snake-lizard was captured within 30 yards of the beach under a bush. The head was held some 3 or 4 inches off the ground, the sides of the neck being flattened, giving the creature a very snake-like appearance. The scale-feet were prominent when the animal was held in the hand, as these were moved vigorously. The general body colour was a blue-grey, while the belly was a faint pink. The body design is notable for three prominent dark stripes starting from the head. These are not continuous but are interrupted by light brown. There is also a light brown line through the centre of each stripe. Halfway down the tail the design ends abruptly, and only three thin, black lines continue.

Crowned Snake (*Denisonia coronata*).—This snake was caught moving over the samphire flat near the beach, during the afternoon. The description was the same as in the *Handbook of the Snakes of Western Australia* by L. Glauert, except that towards the head and just past the dark collar were two pale blue patches, one on each side of the head.

The introduced snail, *Helix pisana*, was very common.

POINT MALCOLM

The following birds were recorded:—Sooty Oyster-catcher (3), Twenty-eight Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius*—2), Welcome Swallow (common), Spotted Scrub-Wren, Silvereye (common), Spinebill (*Acanthorhynchus supereiliosus*—quite common inland from the beach), Red Wattle-bird (common), Grey Butcher-bird (common)

Again *Helix pisana* was common and another specimen of the Sealy-foot Lizard was collected.

DUKE OF ORLEANS BAY.

Birds: Pacific Gull (1), Spotted Scrub-Wren, Silvereye, Singing Honeyeater (1), New Holland Honeyeater (common), Yellow-throated Miner (*Myzantha flavigula*—very common), Red Wattle-bird (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*—2 were seen in a paper bark swamp), Grey Butcher-bird (2).

Interesting plants included the Christmas Tree (*Nuytsia floribunda*), locally called Munjee, that being the native name, and the tall *Zamia* (*Macrozamia Dyeri*). The latter was said by D. McKenzie to occur as far east as Thomas River, near Cape Arid. The limit is given a little further east, to the level of Cape Pasley, by J. P. Brooke in his interesting paper on the local vegetation and physiography ("Natural Features of Israelite Bay," *Proc. Australas. Assoc. Adv. Se.*, 1895, vol. vi, 1895, pp. 561-569). Brooke gives the western limit of this species of *Zamia* as 30 miles west of Esperance Bay and provides information on the eastern limits of a number of plants, including the Christmas Tree, Black-boys, Jarrah and others.